Tuesday, September 2, 2014

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Best in the West!

Calgary Stampeders' Nik Lewis celebrates a catch against the Edmonton Eskimos during the Labour Day Classic on Monday. The Stamps won 28-13, improving their record to 8-1 on the season to lead the CFL West Division. The Stamps will face the Eskimos again, this time in Edmonton, on Saturday. More coverage, pages 4 and 22. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

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FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW TODAY

1
GEAR UP!
Time trials begin for 118 cyclists as the 2014 Tour of Alberta gets underway today. The first rider pushes off at 6:05 p.m. from Canada Olympic Park. **METRO**

2
SLOW DOWN!
School is now in session for public and Catholic board students, and that means new synchronized playground/school traffic zones (7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.) will be in effect. **METRO**

3
HOMEWORK BAN
Smart idea? An elementary school in Quebec has banned homework from Grade 1 to Grade 6 to see whether it will help improve scholastic outcomes. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

4
'SEX GECKOS' DIE
No E.T. geckos, yet. Russia's space agency said its five "sex geckos" sent into space for a study on weightlessness and sexual behaviour died during their voyage. **METRO**

5
ITUNES FEST
The iTunes Festival has begun, with a different live concert each day of the month. Beck is the headliner today. For more info, visit itunesfestival.com. **METRO**

Students grappling with low vacancies, higher rent costs

Still tight. Rental market remains tough — an average two-bedroom goes for $1,267 monthly

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Post-secondary students who've found a reasonably priced abode to call their own should consider themselves lucky — those that haven't might be out of luck.

That's the word from housing-industry watchers, who are reporting just modest gains in rental vacancy compared to a flood-influenced housing crunch in 2013.

"I'm sensing that the market is equally as tight this year as it was last, and that is a little tighter than it had been for two or three years previous to the flood," said Steve Fitterer, director of residence services at Mount Royal University.

Of his roughly 1,000 beds available to students annually, Fitterer reported last week having just 30 to 40 to spare.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. reported in June that rental vacancy in Calgary sat at just 1.4 per cent, tied for the lowest among major centres nationwide with Edmonton.

It has become increasingly expensive to rent locally, the report found, as sample apartment rents rose five per cent, bringing the average monthly cost for a two-bedroom apartment to $1,267.

Gerry Baxter, executive director of the Calgary Residential Rental Association, said the turnover rate on rental properties in 2013 also dipped to 31.4 per cent from 36 per cent the year prior.

"Many people that I talked to last year said their tenants appeared to be staying a little longer," Baxter said.

He said some of that could be attributed to lower property availability after historic flooding left numerous homes uninhabitable. Baxter said another potential factor was changes to federal mortgage rules that require prospective homeowners to save up a little more before acquiring a property of their own.

Students living in on-campus residence at both the University of Calgary and Mount Royal moved in on Sunday.

Baxter said those living elsewhere "should have been looking by the end of July."

"If they haven't gotten anything yet, they're going to find it a little bit difficult now," he said.

Adrianna Johnson, 18, a first-year engineering student from 100 Mile House, B.C., moves into University of Calgary student housing on Monday with the help of her brother Mason Johnson, 16, and other family members. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

Group renews push for secondary suites

Secondary suites will be back on the agenda at city hall this month, and a group of Calgarians is organizing a renewed push to convince the perceived swing votes on council to support broader legalization.

Modelling their efforts after the largely successful push by a group called Calgarians for Cycle Tracks earlier this year, organizers with Calgarians for Secondary Suites have launched a website and online petition aimed at spurring a flood of citizen feedback to councillors' offices and inboxes.

"Calgarians need to be more aware of this and encourage their ward councillors to vote for it," said Franco Savoia, director of Vibrant Communities Calgary, one of the participating organizations.

University of Calgary Students' Union vice-president external Levi Nilson said many students currently live in illegal secondary suites and have no recourse when confronted with unsafe living conditions, as reporting the violations will only see their suites shut down.

"It's very scary that a lot of these suites haven't gone through the proper process," Nilson said.

Erik Queenan, president of the Students' Association of Mount Royal University, noted that three students died in a 2009 basement-suite fire in Parkdale.

"There are many, many students and young Calgarians who rely on secondary suites as a form of affordable housing," he said.

Council is due to vote this month on a motion from Coun. Druh Farrell that would lay the groundwork for legalizing secondary suites in four inner-city wards and within a fixed distance from major transit routes. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Evan Lock, left, from Edmonton, and Luke Ohlhauser, from Red Deer, sport their Labour Day Classic outfits to cheer on their favourite teams during Monday's game. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

Labour Day Classic fans are a fashion-conscious bunch

Stampeders win. From yellow shoes to kids' pajama pants, funky outfits reign supreme

CANDICE WARD
calgary@metronews.ca

A winning outfit for the Labour Day Classic matchup between the Calgary Stampeders and the Edmonton Eskimos was almost as important as winning the game for some fans.

Saturday's rematch

The Stampeders will face off against the Eskimos in a rematch on Saturday in Edmonton.

Whether it's the combination of red and white or green and gold, fans were out supporting their favourite Alberta teams Monday.

For the past five years, Eskimos fan Evan Lock and his group of green-and-gold friends have been making the trip to Calgary to cheer on their team during the classic rival matchups.

"At the end of the game, everyone respects us because we're here to cheer," said Lock.

It's taken six years to collect the gear for Lock's getup and it's cost him about $300, with the most expensive article being the Nate Coehoorn jersey.

Included in his outfit is a pair of yellow shoes he got from Turkey, yellow-and-green striped socks, a pair of children's pajama pants and two flags — one worn as a cap and one to wave.

Stampeders

"It's all about Calgary."
Stampeders fan Luke Ohlhauser

Lock and his friends weren't the only ones sporting their team's flags and rocker wigs. Stampeder fans such as Luke Ohlhauser brought out the big guns for the big game.

"It's all about Calgary," said Ohlhauser, a Red Deer native who has been coming to the long-weekend game for as long as he can remember.

Ohlhauser's fashion statement included team-coloured face paint, a flag and a Bo Levi Mitchell jersey.

The Stampeders won the Labour Day Classic by a score of 28-13.

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Two men sought after woman assaulted in alley

Staff Sgt. Bev Voros speaks to reporters Monday afternoon. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Hours-long ordeal.
Woman finally finds help at a local convenience store

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Calgary police are looking for two male suspects after a woman was struck in the head and sexually assaulted early Monday morning in the northeast community of Coral Springs.

Staff Sgt. Bev Voros said the woman was walking down an alley sometime between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. when two men approached her and one asked for a cigarette.

"She said no; he punched her in the face," Voros said. "She blacked out and woke up to the sexual assault."

The victim spent several hours looking for help, Voros said, and tried unsuccessfully to flag down at least two cars, but both drivers didn't stop.

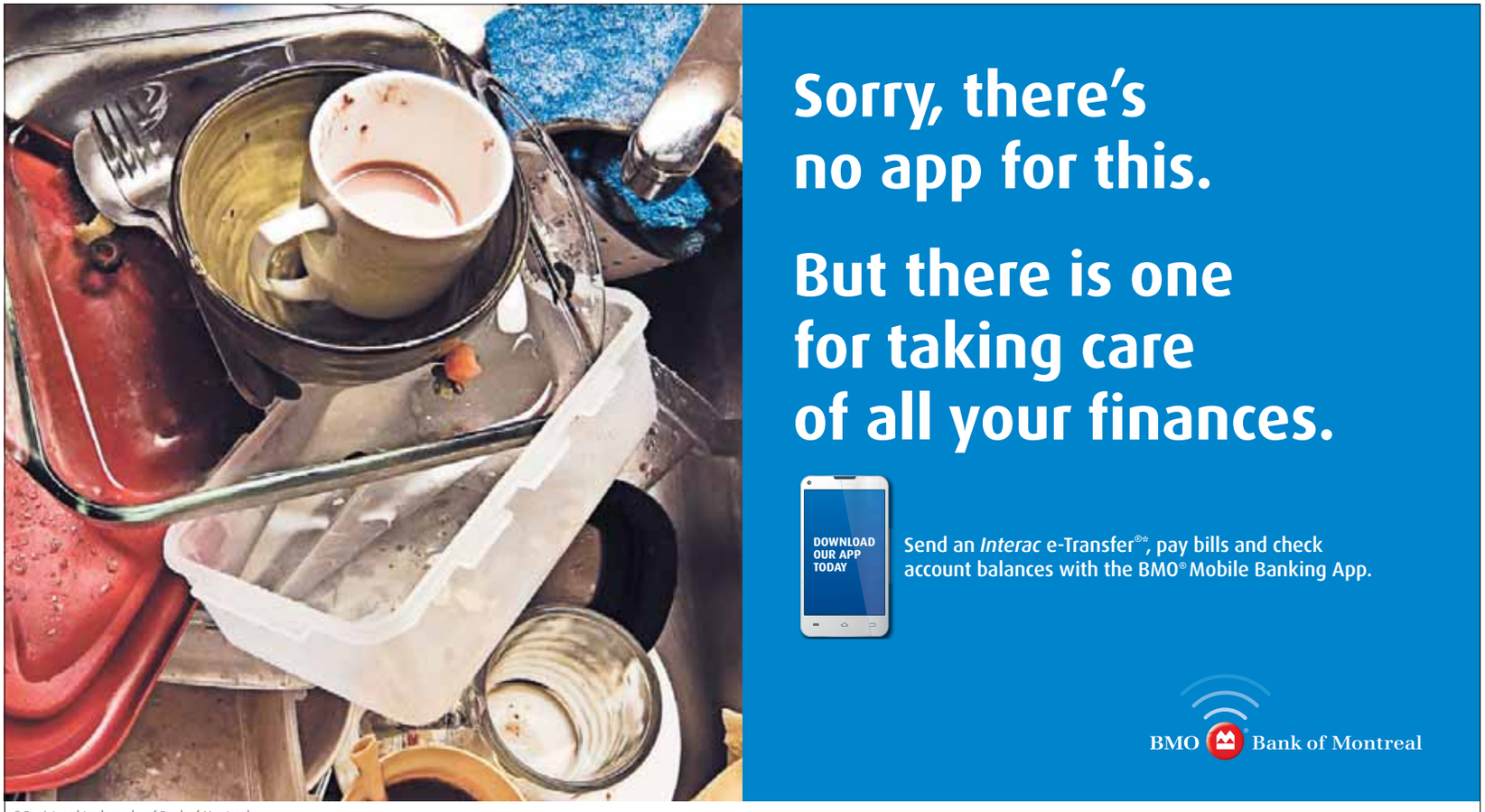
She eventually made her way to a convenience store in the 0-100 block of Coral Springs Boulevard N.E., where staff called 911 at approximately 8 a.m.

Police believe the attack happened within a 10-block radius of the convenience store.

The woman remained in hospital Monday evening, being treated for a broken arm and "possible head trauma," Voros said.

The first suspect, who is believed to have both punched and sexually assaulted the victim, is described as a white man in his 50s, about five-foot-11 and 190 pounds, with short, grey, brush-cut hair and blue eyes. The second suspect is described as aboriginal with long hair in a braid.

Police are asking the two motorists, as well as anyone else who may have information about the crime, to call them at 403-266-1234 or to call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477.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Rob Anders takes second crack at netting Conservative nomination

Controversial Conservative MP Rob Anders may not find the welcome mat out as he attempts to make the move from a big-city riding where he lost his nomination to a brand new rural one.

Earlier this year, Anders lost a bitterly fought nomination battle in Calgary Signal Hill, which takes in a large part of the constituency that he has represented in Ottawa for 17 years.

He is now seeking the Conservative nomination in the riding of Bow River, east of Calgary. It covers a large swath of southern Alberta, including the communities of Strathmore, Brooks, Taber and Vauxhall.

Anders' entry into the race has residents talking and is causing some resentment, says Brooks Mayor Martin Shields, who is one of three other candidates seeking the nomination.

"I was not happy and not pleased," Shields said in a recent interview. "If you lose your own nomination in your own riding, I think it's a message that maybe running somewhere else, where you're not from, is not something you should do."

Rolly Ashdown, a reeve in Rocky View County, is also seeking the nomination in a vote expected the third week of September.

"I've heard that from a lot of people. I think the basics are they'd like to see someone local," he said. "It does make a difference being from here. It gives you familiarity, that's for sure." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Minimum wage

Not everyone reaping Alberta advantage

While minimum wage rose across the province yesterday, new data from Public Interest Alberta shows many people are still struggling to get by.

The numbers compiled from Statistics Canada data show that 19.5 per cent of Edmontonians and 20.6 per cent of Calgarians make less than $15 per hour.

Minimum wage now rises annually with inflation and it rose on Monday to $10.20 per hour from $9.95.

Bill Moore-Kilgannon, the group's executive director, said low wages hurt everyone and should be addressed.

"The fact that so many Albertans are struggling to make ends meet despite having a job has a negative impact on families, our communities and the economy," he said.

According to the numbers, 61 per cent of low-wage earners are women. METRO

B.C. Teachers' strike has parents scrambling for daycare in lieu of school

Daycare operators in British Columbia are scrambling to keep up with increased demand for child support as more parents need places to babysit their kids because schools will not open.

Janos Stiasny, owner of Wise Owl Montessori Child Care, says spots in his daycare have filled right up because of the ongoing teachers' strike.

He said he normally gets more than 65 children, but after the strike his care centres are looking after about 90 kids in total and about 14 children remain on the wait list.

"We are very carefully managing the scarce space available," said Stiasny. "We had to hire additional educators, so for us as an operator it's been quite a time for us to get ready and prepared."

Talks between the government's bargainers and teachers fell apart over the weekend, dashing any hopes parents had that school would start as scheduled on Tuesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montreal

Bar accused of ejecting two male students for kissing

A popular Montreal bar is being accused of homophobia after a bouncer allegedly kicked out two male students for kissing.

A student association at the Université de Montréal is demanding an apology from the Saint-Sulpice bar, a busy spot in the city's Latin Quarter.

Vincent Fournier Gosselin, an executive with the student group, says a bouncer at the bar forced the two students to leave a medical-school orientation event last Friday night.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mulcair: Labour gains 'under attack' in Canada

Toronto. NDP leader takes aim at Stephen Harper, Justin Trudeau at Labour Day Parade

Thousands marched Monday in Toronto's annual Labour Day Parade to show their support for local unions, with more than 30 labour organizations taking part in the festivities.

Joining them was federal Opposition Leader Tom Mulcair, who took shots at Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau.

He said many of the gains brought in by the labour movement — such as workplace health-and-safety measures and wage equality — are currently "under attack" in Canada.

Both Harper and Trudeau voted against anti-scab legislation brought forward by New Democrats, he said.

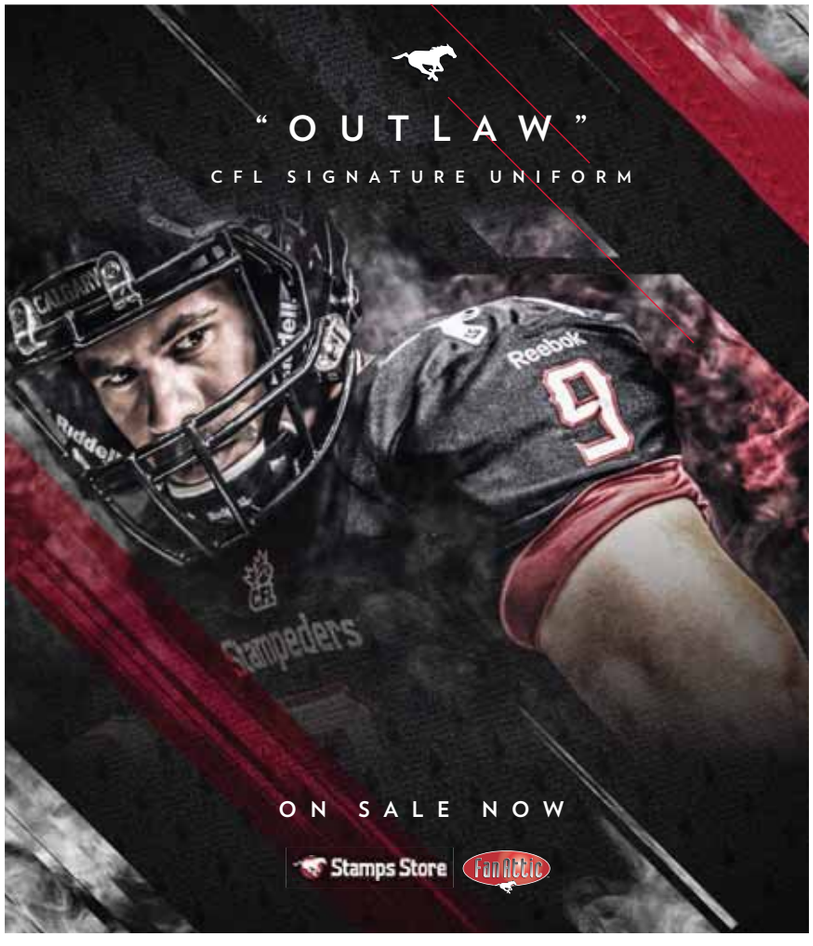
Federal NDP Leader Tom Mulcair greets participants at the annual Labour Day parade in Toronto on Monday.

ADAM MILLER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"In Toronto now, more than one half of families do not have a single full-time steady job that they can rely on," Mulcair said. "Under the Conservatives and the Liberals we've lost a whole generation of well-paid manufacturing jobs. We've got to get back to a situation where people can have a full-time job with a pension, enough for their family to live on."

Paul Lefebvre, former president of IAMAW Local 2323, said the union came out to send Ottawa a message.

"We think our country needs to have a correction in the direction it's going politically, and I think a lot of people feel that way and the march is getting bigger for that reason," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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National Defence. Feds to slash $2.7B from budget

Stephen Harper has been one of the toughest-talking leaders throughout the Ukraine crisis, yet newly released figures show National Defence is expected to face an even deeper budget hole in the coming year than previously anticipated.

The ongoing reductions come as the prime minister is expected to resist pressure from allies at this week's NATO summit to spend substantially more on the military.

Annual spending on the military, when compared to 2011, is slated to shrink by a total of $2.7 billion in 2015, according to a briefing note prepared for the deputy defence minister.

That would be almost $300 million more than earlier internal estimates, and roughly $600 million higher than the figure defence officials acknowledged last fall when they rolled out the department's renewal plan.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Missile-defence program

U.S. military wants Canada to put sensors in Arctic

American military officials have shed some light on what Canada could contribute to the missile-defence program should it choose to join after a decade spent on the sidelines.

Several conversations with high-ranking U.S. military officers point to a common desire: multi-purpose sensors in Canada's Arctic that would sniff out a wider range of potential threats than just intercontinental ballistic missiles. Those state-of-the-art systems would be designed to track maritime vessels, airplanes and small cruise missiles — all in addition to any large missile fired off by North Korea or some hypothetical rogue state.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rebels in Ukraine backing off from full independence

Andrei Purgin, a pro-Russian rebel leader from eastern Ukraine, arrives for peace talks in Minsk, Belarus, on Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Negotiations.
Talks adjourned until Friday, when parties will discuss ceasefire and prisoner exchange

Pro-Russian rebels softened their demand for full independence Monday, saying they would respect Ukraine's sovereignty in exchange for autonomy — a shift that reflects Moscow's desire to strike a deal at a new round of peace talks.

The insurgents' platform, released at the start of Monday's negotiations in Minsk, the Belarusian capital, represented a significant change in their vision for the future of Ukraine's eastern, mainly Russian-speaking region.

It remains unclear, however, whether the talks can reach a compromise amid the brutal fighting that has continued in eastern Ukraine. On Monday, the rebels pushed Ukrainian government forces from an airport near Luhansk, the second-largest rebel-held city.

The peace talks in Minsk follow last week's meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart Petro Poroshenko. The negotiations involve former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma; Russia's ambassador to Ukraine; an envoy from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe; and representatives of the rebels.

Rebels declared in a statement carried by Russia's state-run RIA Novosti news agency that they are willing to discuss "the preservation of the united economic, cultural and political space of Ukraine."

In return, they demanded a comprehensive amnesty and broad local powers that would include being able to appoint their own local law-enforcement officials.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Senegal monitors Ebola

Senegalese authorities on Monday were monitoring everyone who was in contact with a student infected with Ebola, who crossed into the country and who has lost three family members to the disease.

An Ebola outbreak in West Africa has killed more than 1,500 people in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. The university student is Senegal's first case of the dreaded disease.

The 21-year-old left Guinea on Aug. 15, just days after his brother died of the disease, according to Guinea's Health Ministry. It said that the brother apparently caught Ebola in Sierra Leone.

The student travelled by road, crossing into Senegal despite a border closure. He arrived in Dakar, the Senegalese capital, on Aug. 20, according to the World Health Organization.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.K. PM proposes new passport seizure powers for police

Anti-terror. Proposed laws intended to make it harder for suspected extremists to leave or re-enter the country

British Prime Minister David Cameron THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prime Minister David Cameron has proposed new laws that would empower police to seize the passports of Britons suspected of travelling abroad to fight with terrorist groups.

Speaking to Parliament, Cameron said his government is also working to block suspected British jihadi fighters from re-entering the U.K. The power to monitor such suspects already living in Britain would also be strengthened.

The plan to expand Britain's anti-terror laws, likely to be approved by Parliament, aims to prevent attacks by Islamist militants returning from terror training in the Middle East.

Similarly to its Western allies, Britain is worried its citizens will travel and join terror groups in the Middle East, then return and threaten their home country.

British intelligence said it suspects 500 Britons have gone to train in Syria or Iraq.

Cameron said he considers extremism by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) group one of the biggest modern threats to security. While Britain's home security already has the authority to withhold passports, Cameron says more is needed to ensure police can act accordingly if they spot a suspect at a border crossing.

"We will introduce specific and targeted legislation to fill this gap by providing the police with a temporary power to seize a passport at the border, during which time they will be able to investigate the individual concerned," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel, Gaza students heading back to school

An Israeli student pulls his bag behind him as he heads off to school Monday, joining thousands of other children who returned to school in southern Israel after seeking refuge inside bomb shelters from Hamas rocket fire for much of the summer. Ziad Thabet, a Gaza Education Ministry official, said classes will resume in Gaza on Sept. 14 once the Strip's schools are repaired. It's estimated at least 223 Gaza or UN-run schools were hit during the 50-day-long war, 25 of which are too damaged to use. Israel has accused Hamas of using civilian buildings for military purposes. TSAFRIR ABAYOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Got that TV to Cuba in the nick of time

The driver of a private taxi closes the door of his car, with the back seat loaded with his client's TV brought from the U.S., as he leaves the José Martí International Airport in Havana on Monday. Cubans braced Monday for a clampdown on the flow of car tires, flat-screen televisions, blue jeans and shampoo in the bags of travellers who haul eye-popping amounts of foreign-bought merchandise to an island where consumer goods are frequently shoddy, scarce and expensive. RAMON ESPINOSA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Would you like to be paid with Bitcoin?

Trend. While Canada does not recognize Bitcoin as currency, a small number of workers are opting for a cryptocurrency payment option

A small but growing — and surprising — number of workers are rejecting Canadian dollar salaries for Bitcoin, according to a Waterloo, Ont., payroll firm.

Wagepoint CEO Shrad Rao said his firm came up with the cryptocurrency payment option in November last year as a side project and did not expect any take-up.

But as the online currency gained popularity this year, he said, employees from 10 firms have signed up for the Bitcoin option, and many more are asking about it.

"When we started off, we didn't even think we'd get one," he said over the phone from New York, where Wagepoint has another office.

"What's interesting is that we've actually had customers come to us because of the (Bitcoin) integration, which we were not expecting at all."

Rao said the firms are overwhelmingly technology companies, whose workers have a higher interest in new innovations and tend to dabble more.

In addition to Canadian interest, he said, he gets about five inquiries for Bitcoin payment per month from the United States, where Wagepoint also operates, although it has not yet launched such an option in that country.

Bitcoin, a decentralized currency, was launched in 2009 by a yet-unknown person or group. It gained mainstream attention in 2013, and subsequent adoption caused one bitcoin to rise to a high of $1,000.

But most brick-and-mortar shops still do not recognize Bitcoin as currency, and neither does the Canadian government, which in June ruled Bitcoin is property.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Transgender community struggles to find work

Melissa Hudson says 30 years of experience in the Toronto business world hasn't been enough to land her a job, despite numerous callbacks on her resumé for first-round interviews.

Hudson's difficulties in finding work started after she transitioned from male to female, and she blames discrimination for leaving her bankrupt, fighting to keep a roof over her head.

"After transitioning, I can't get anyone to give me a second interview," she said. "I've even had interviewers make excuses of why they can't conduct the interview once I show up."

Hudson's last job in the corporate world was at a logistics firm in Mississauga, Ont., where she was a self-proclaimed "suit-and-tie" business professional. But she decided to live openly as a transgender woman two years ago.

Her challenges were exacerbated by a cycling accident that left her in the hospital for months and a hospital-acquired infection after gender-related surgery, she said.

Hudson left her job after the accident because of a "toxic work environment" but hasn't been able to find other employment.

"It would have been possible to get through it and get back to work if my gender hadn't been an issue with employers," she said.

Because of the relatively small size of the transgender community and difficulty in reaching members, advocates say transgender employment data is hard to find.

A 2011 report from Trans PULSE — a community-based research project in Ontario — found that only 37 per cent of transgender participants were employed full-time, while 15 per cent were employed part-time. Twenty-five per cent were students, three per cent were retired and 20 per cent were unemployed.

The results were based on surveys of 433 trans people who lived, worked or received health care in Ontario.

Eighteen per cent said they had been turned down for a job because of their gender, while 32 per cent said they were unsure if their gender influenced the hiring manager's decision. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Experiment in legal pot

Washington judge upholds a small city's pot shop ban

A state judge said that a small city can continue to ban state-licensed marijuana businesses, in a case with big implications for Washington's experiment in legal pot.

The judge issued the ruling Friday after arguments over whether Initiative 502, the voter-approved state law that legalizes adults' recreational use of marijuana, left any room for such local bans.

Washington's experiment is built around the notion that it can bring marijuana into a regulated system that protects public health and safety better than prohibition did.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Know when to hold 'em ...

Atlantic City casinos fold 'em

The most spectacular and costly failure in Atlantic City's 36-year history of casino gambling began to play out Monday when the $2.4-billion US Revel Casino Hotel emptied its hotel.

Its casino was set to close early Tuesday morning.

Revel is shutting down a little over two years after opening with high hopes of revitalizing Atlantic City's struggling gambling market.

Revel will be the second of three Atlantic City casinos to close in a two-week span. The Showboat Casino Hotel closed its doors Sunday, and Trump Plaza is closing Sept. 16.

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EVEN PLAYBOY THINKS CATCALLING IS SEXIST

SHE SAYS

Jessica Napier
metronews.ca

"Give me a smile, sweetheart." "Nice dress." "Damn, girl." "Mmmmmm."

I could fill a 500-page textbook with the comments I've heard over the years, hurled at me from car windows and whispered in my ear in a crowded bar. Occasionally these outbursts of appreciation come in the form of a well-crafted one-liner; the rest of the time, I'm treated to an impulsive holler, a leering glance or just a series of hissing noises.

Most of the women I know have been on the receiving end of some form of unwanted sexual street harassment. I still find it bewildering that so many seemingly intelligent men — men with mothers, sisters and, potentially, wives and girlfriends of their own — feel compelled to fling vulgar comments at complete strangers.

A few weeks ago, the New York Post published an article titled "Hey, ladies — catcalls are flattering! Deal with it." In this fine piece of click-bait journalism, author Doree Lewak celebrates the lewd remarks she receives from her neighbourhood construction workers. Lewak's hard-hat-wearing Prince Charmings offer her a daily dose of ego-boosting validation in the form of wolf whistles and crude remarks that give her an "unmatched level of euphoria." That's right: euphoria.

And that's OK, I guess. I mean, if Lewak wants to measure her own self-worth in grunts, she's absolutely entitled to those feelings. There's nothing inherently wrong with enjoying attention from the opposite (or same) sex, but arguing that catcalls are universally flattering and all women should just "deal with it" is absolutely ridiculous.

Telling a woman who has been a victim of unwanted street harassment that she "should take it as a compliment" is like telling a guy who's just been beaten up at a bar that he should "man up." This "deal with it" attitude reinforces the notion that women are objects to be looked at, evaluated and commented upon by men. And, worst of all, that we should enjoy the process or be labelled uptight.

Even Playboy — which is not exactly a media organization renowned for championing a feminist agenda — has weighed in on the street-harassment debate. The adult magazine recently posted an infographic on its website that posed the question, "When is it appropriate to catcall a woman?" It concludes that men should resort to it only when addressing a known and consenting partner or an actual feline.

I rarely find myself siding with Playboy on anything, but I have to agree with them on this one. There are plenty of ways to approach someone in a respectful and reasonable manner; licking your lips and shouting "Nice ass!" isn't one of them.

And according to an incredibly unscientific poll of my close female friends, catcalling has a success rate of absolutely zero.

Because, for most women at least, unsolicited explicit remarks from strange men don't make us feel beautiful or euphoric; they make us feel violated, angry and potentially very afraid.

День Знаний (Day of Knowledge)

Children take part in a ceremony marking the start of classes at School No. 57 in Moscow on Monday as part of the traditional opening of the school year, known as Day of Knowledge. The day was started in 1984 in the U.S.S.R. IVAN SEKRETAREV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian kids mark back-to-school with flowers, fancy dress

Students in Russia and other former Soviet-bloc countries participated in Sept. 1 celebrations, also known as Day of Knowledge, to commemorate the first day of school.

Students arrive dressed up and carrying flowers. Senior students escort younger students to class, holding their hands along the way. In a ritual called the First Bell, a girl from the first grade is chosen for the honour of being hoisted onto the shoulders of an 11th-grader to ring the school bell.

METRO

Education and politics

- **Tragedy.** This Sept. 1 marks the 10th anniversary of the Beslan school massacre, in which 385 people were killed after the school was stormed by armed terrorists.
- **Crimea.** The Moscow Times reports that students in Crimea will now study under the Russian education system for the first time. Russia took control of the region in March.

Worth mentioning.

Neanderthals not as dumb as previously thought: Study

A series of lines scratched into rock in a cave near the southwestern tip of Europe could be proof that Neanderthals were more intelligent and creative than previously thought.

The cross-hatched engravings inside Gorham's Cave in Gibraltar are the first known examples of Neanderthal rock art, according to a team of scientists who studied the site. The find is significant because it indicates that modern humans and their extinct cousins shared the capacity for abstract expression.

The study, released Monday by the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, examined grooves in a rock that had been covered with sediment. Archaeologists had previously found artifacts associated with Neanderthal culture in the overlying layer, suggesting that the engravings must be older, said Clive Finlayson, one of the study's authors.

"It is the last nail in the coffin for the hypothesis that Neanderthals were cognitively inferior to modern humans," said Paul Tacon, an expert in rock art at Australia's Griffith University. Tacon, who was not involved in the study, said the research shows the engravings were made with great effort for ritual purposes, to communicate with others, or both.

Theory might be dead

"It is the last nail in the coffin for the hypothesis that Neanderthals were cognitively inferior to modern humans."
Paul Tacon, expert in rock art

"We will never know the meaning the design held for the maker or the Neanderthals who inhabited the cave, but the fact that they were marking their territory in this way before modern humans arrived in the region has huge implications for debates about what it is to be human and the origin of art."

Not everyone is convinced: another recently published study examining the dating of various archaeological sites across Europe raises the possibility that the artifacts may not have been made by Neanderthals but by modern humans.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Comments

Re: Proposed laws could dampen sales of e-cigarettes in Canada, published online Aug. 30

This entire controversy, including Nova Scotia's absurd knee-jerk decision to supposedly ban them, is nothing more than the public health nannies being afraid that the use of these things will "re-normalize" what looks like smoking, even though there is no actual smoke, just vapour. The nannies are ignoring the very real benefits these things have for people trying to quit who are killing themselves with real cigarettes. They ought to be ashamed of themselves.
Keith P., posted to metronews.ca

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Ebooks

Joni Mitchell: In Her Own Words

By. Malka Marom

Kindle/iBooks/Kobo

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
scene@metronews.ca

A good conversation should have all the time it needs. This collection of audio and printed interviews between singers Marom and Mitchell has that comfort, allowing for Joni's engaging candour to come through about her Saskatchewan childhood, working relationships and personal contradictions.

The Simpsons

Did NHL get crusty over Cup slight?

There are hockey fans in The Simpsons' writers' room but apparently the NHL felt a joke that soiled the Stanley Cup went too far.

In the episode The Last Temptation of Krust, Krusty the Clown drinks out of the Stanley Cup, and then promptly vomits into it.

Producer Mike Scully says the show received a nasty letter from the NHL after the episode aired, but chose to ignore it. Scully has been tweeting behind-the-scenes memories while a Simpsons marathon airs in the U.S. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Avoid the catfish when looking for love online

Soulmate or scam?
Nev Schulman's book offers advice on how to detect the liars and fraud artists lurking on dating websites

EMILY LAURENCE
Metro in New York City

Catfish host Nev Schulman wants you to know it's not them, it's you.

In his new book, In Real Life: Love, Lies & Identity in the Digital Age, Schulman explains that the key to establishing a long-lasting bond is to take a look inward.

Tricks such as a Google image search and knowing that a Facebook account with only 12 friends is a red flag help, but Schulman says there's way more to it than that.

Hence the new book. We talked to Schulman and share his best words of wisdom here.

Whether you are searching for love online or in person, they are tips you can take to heart.

Be aware of your soft spots

"It's not what to look out for in other people. It's what to look out for in yourself," he says.

"Getting catfished isn't about someone being a really good liar or Internet user. It's about being vulnerable, and perhaps unsatisfied or insecure, and somebody taking advantage of that."

In his new book, In Real Life, Nev Schulman shares the tricks of the catfish trade — people who lie about themselves on dating websites. CONTRIBUTED

Don't fake it

"We all have doubts, fears and insecurities in our happiness. When you hide that from other people, you're also kind of hiding it from yourself," Schulman suggests.

"If everybody goes around pretending to be the happy, fulfilled version of themselves and ignores the truth about things they're feeling, then we're all participating in the same game of not really connecting in a meaningful way or being open and honest with each other."

Quoted

"It's not what to look out for in other people. It's what to look out for in yourself."

Nev Schulman, author and host of the MTV series Catfish, on how to avoid online dating scam artists

If you're looking for love online, meet as soon as possible

"If you're looking for a relationship, using the Internet is great, but it should just be a means," he warns.

"The trouble is when you go online as a distraction, or without any clear intention or specific goal. That's when you get into trouble."

Real relationships take work

"I think we all sort of subscribe to this fairy-tale version of how love conquers all and how once you find your soulmate, everything falls into place," Schulman points out.

"That's just crazy. It doesn't work like that.

"I think we've become disillusioned that we will find the perfect person now that we have online dating, and that it won't take any work and compromise, but it does, no matter what."

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Felix Buxton, left, and Simon Ratcliffe —a.k.a. Basement Jaxx — have just released their new album, Junto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Basement Jaxx find their 'thing' is happy sounds

Junto. For years the duo struggled to find something that defined their act; their new album may do just that

Quoted

"(Music) seems pointless unless it's doing something positive."

Basement Jaxx's Felix Buxton on making music that's joyful and optimistic

Basement Jaxx aren't usually associated with restful breathers.

But the high-energy British electronic dance innovators have in fact been more or less dormant the past five years, the longest break between full-length recordings of their long career.

Over that five-year span, the pair watched from the sidelines as EDM exploded — and as longtime friends and cohorts in the chrome-plated pair Daft Punk mined platinum records and Grammy gold.

Such headlining success has eluded Basement Jaxx over their 20 years together. The pair has won a Grammy, but never *the* Grammy, and they've had hits — most notably 2001's adrenaline rush Where's Your Head At? — but they've done so somewhat anonymously, with a tough-to-pin-down sensibility dedicated to globe-trotting and genre-hopping.

It's led to joyously spontaneous creations like their latest album, Junto. But their lack of a defining visual or aural esthetic might have hurt the duo when it comes to building a mass following.

"It hasn't helped us at all," said Felix Buxton during a recent promotional whisk through Toronto. "It's just, like, made people confused. 'I thought Basement Jaxx was some black girls. Who are Basement Jaxx anyway? Because I've seen a couple videos of different people in different styles on different songs.'

"From a marketing point of view, it hasn't helped us at all."

"As far as a picture or photo," chimed in partner Simon Ratcliffe, "yeah, some helmets or something —"

"Would help," finished Buxton.

"Would *really* help," agreed Ratcliffe.

Indeed, marketing dance music to American audiences seems to succeed most often when a hit tune is tethered to something tangible, like an engaging singer or an outsized gimmick (Daft Punk's robotic getup; Deadmau5's various headwear).

In 2009, the duo unleashed an avalanche of material in a way they describe as somewhat haphazard.

The separate albums Scars and Zephyr amounted to nearly 85 minutes of new music. They also amounted to the end of Basement Jaxx's recording contract with XL Recordings, and to hear the pair tell it now, there seemed to be some mutual fatigue fogging that relationship.

"The Zephyr one we actually initially stuck on with Scars (as a double album), and the record company said, 'Don't do a double album because that's a bit Spinal Tap. You're going all progressive. People will definitely not be interested,"' recalled Buxton. "So we put that out afterwards, and I think we basically agreed that no one would market it or anything, but at least could it be available? That was all we asked. It can exist. That's it.

"It didn't seem to be fashionable. And actually after that, the orchestral album, (2011's) Basement Jaxx vs. Metropole Orkest, that wasn't marketed either, because that wasn't fashionable.

"It was a time to not worry about fashion and what people wanted and just do some things."

So Buxton "moved house," read a book on feng shui and spent probably a month sifting through a roomful of vinyl and disposing of thousands and thousands of records. He assessed and tossed away knick-knacks and souvenirs accrued over 20 years of touring the world, and perhaps that process influenced the album's restless globalism.

Every track practically features its own style, marrying their pop house to sounds from Jamaica, Chicago, Brazil, London and Houston. As has been the case on experimental past efforts, some measure of cohesion is achieved because of a common mood, one of joy and optimistic adventure.

"(Music) seems pointless unless it's doing something positive," Buxton said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

An upbeat explosion of pure pleasure

New Pornographers. Is Brill Bruisers the Canadian supergroup's best record yet? Carl Newman thinks so

A.C. Newman, left, and Kathryn Calder of the New Pornographers promote the band's new album. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Everything about the New Pornographers' new album seems designed to seize your attention, from the playful DayGlo cover to the sparkly, maximalist power-pop cupcakes contained therein.

Brill Bruisers is the Canadian supergroup's sixth album, another winner in a remarkably rock-steady run.

But in an industry built on riding the shiny and new, consistency can be confused for monotony — and after 14 years of precision pop craftsmanship, it's natural that mastermind Carl Newman would want to stand out.

"Our narrative — maybe it's just an old narrative and people are sick of it — but when you look at our band, we're not your average band," Newman mused during a recent chat. "It's like, Kathryn (Calder)'s my niece. Look at everybody involved with it — the fact that Neko (Case) is in the band, or like, Destroyer's in the band ... Are we that boring of a band? It seems like we have a lot more going on than most bands do."

It would be fair to conclude that Brill Bruisers was infused with a new level of conscientious ambition.

It's a foghorn blast to the ear for anyone who might have become fatigued with the band and its steady goodness over its long run.

Although the group's past two records — 2007's Challengers and 2010's Together — allowed a hike to their highest-yet peaks on the U.S. charts (the latter opened at No. 18), they were also relatively docile efforts, viewed to some extent as "mature."

Quoted

"It's important to me that the music I'm making now is as good if not better than anything I've done before."

Carl Newman, New Pornographers, on the band's new album Brill Bruisers

That trend continued with Newman's mellow 2012 solo record, Shut Down the Streets. Reviews for the three albums weren't negative, but they were restrained.

That last album was borne from a time in Newman's life marked by the death of his mother and birth of his son (Calder's mother also died from ALS during this period).

So the pleasure explosion that is Brill Bruisers didn't happen by accident. Newman says he emerged from that time looking to make an "upbeat" record and was resolute in sticking to that goal.

"I think I said a while back that I didn't want any ballads on the record, and I think it was for that reason," said Newman. "Not that every song had to be really upbeat and rocking, but I wanted the record to have a certain sound ... I just wanted it to have a very specific feel."

Asked if the arrival of his baby son has affected the way he works, he doesn't hesitate.

"I think it's made me try harder," he said. "You're working for something. And it makes me not want to rest on my laurels. Not that I did before, but I want him to grow up thinking, 'My dad is a musician.' I don't want him to grow up thinking, 'My dad used to be a musician.'

"So I think it's important to me that the music I'm making now is as good if not better than anything I've done before."

Newman is confident Brill Bruisers meets that standard.

"It almost worries me — like, why do I think this record is so good?" he said. "Because I feel like it's our best record. And I feel like I never thought that before." THE CANADIAN PRESS

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING

Hidden hot spots provide inspiration

American Express research reveals undiscovered gems

#InspiredBy. CONTRIBUTED

From coast to coast, Canadians agree that unexpected and surprising places give more inspiration than traditional tourist traps.

This comes from global research conducted by American Express, which found that 98 per cent of Canadians agree that exploring our own cities or hometowns is a great place to start finding inspiration. More than one-quarter (27 per cent) of Canadians state they have their own personal inspirational havens, whether it's for fitness, dining, shopping, reading or relaxing.

There are so many places yet to be discovered and enjoyed, with more than half the population admitting to only being familiar with a portion of their cities. To help motivate Canadians to seek out their city's hidden potential, American Express Canada worked with bloggers and residents of Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto to crowdsource each city's undiscovered gems and populate them into interactive maps.

"At American Express, we want to help Canadians untap the potential of the places they live to enrich their lives," says David Barnes, vice-president, advertising and communications, American Express Canada. "We recognize that this isn't achieved just through transactional experiences — there are wide ranges of ways in which this can be done."

Where's your favourite inspirational place? See if yours is listed on the American Express Canada Facebook Page or check out the Sept. 8 issue of Metro.

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NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

It's been a while since there was a celebrity nude photo leak, so some industrious and not-at-all-creepy hackers got together to unleash one doozy of a Labour Day weekend photo dump, posting images allegedly of more than 100 stars including Kate Upton, Kirsten Dunst, Ariana Grande and America's kid sister, Jennifer Lawrence. The images, reportedly culled from iCloud accounts, were initially posted to that bastion of online decency, 4Chan, before going wide on Twitter. Lawrence, for her part, isn't taking this lying down. "The authorities have been contacted and will prosecute anyone who posts the stolen photos of Jennifer Lawrence," her publicist said in a statement.

Some of the hacking victims, like Grande, singer Victoria Justice and Olympic gymnast McKayla Maroney, were quick to dismiss the risqué images as fakes, but others confirmed their legitimacy. "To those of you looking at photos I took with my husband years ago in the privacy of our home, hope you feel great about yourselves," Mary Elizabeth Winstead tweeted. "Knowing those photos were deleted long ago, I can only imagine the creepy effort that went into this. Feeling for everyone who got hacked."

If nothing else, it's a poignant lesson in how hard it is to really, truly delete something online, especially from a cloud-connected phone. The Internet, after all, is forever. My own tactic for keeping safe is simple: Just don't be someone people would be interested in seeing naked. But I guess that's not very good advice for these ladies.

Britney splits with boyfriend, looks up ex

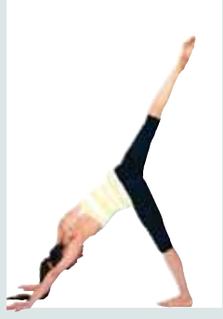
Britney Spears and David Lucado
ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

In the wake of her split last week from boyfriend David Lucado, Britney Spears is reportedly reaching out to a questionable old contact. Sources tell Radar Online that despite supervision from her father, Spears has been secretly texting controversial ex-boyfriend Adnan Ghalib. Spears and Ghalib dated in 2008 before she was placed under a conservatorship. In 2009, her minders obtained a three-year restraining order against Ghalib.

Get behind it: Butt lift yoga

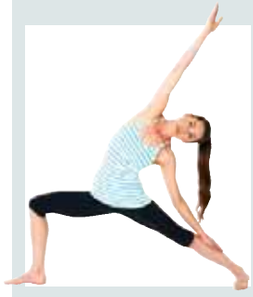
Yogi Tara Stiles, owner of the Strala Yoga Studio in New York, shows us how to reshape and tone our backside. Do this simple five-step sequence up to four times a week.

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News in London



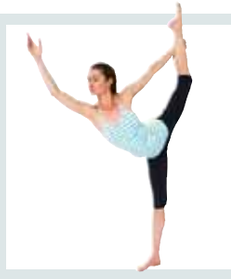
From downward-facing dog, take a big inhale and lift your right leg up and back. Open your hips and shoulders and adjust accordingly.

Exhale and step your right foot between your hands into a low lunge. Ground your left back heel and open up into a warrior II. Sink your hips and aim your front knee over your front ankle. Open your arms out to the sides and gaze over your front fingers. Hang here for 10 long, deep breaths.



Inhale and tip your torso back into reverse warrior.

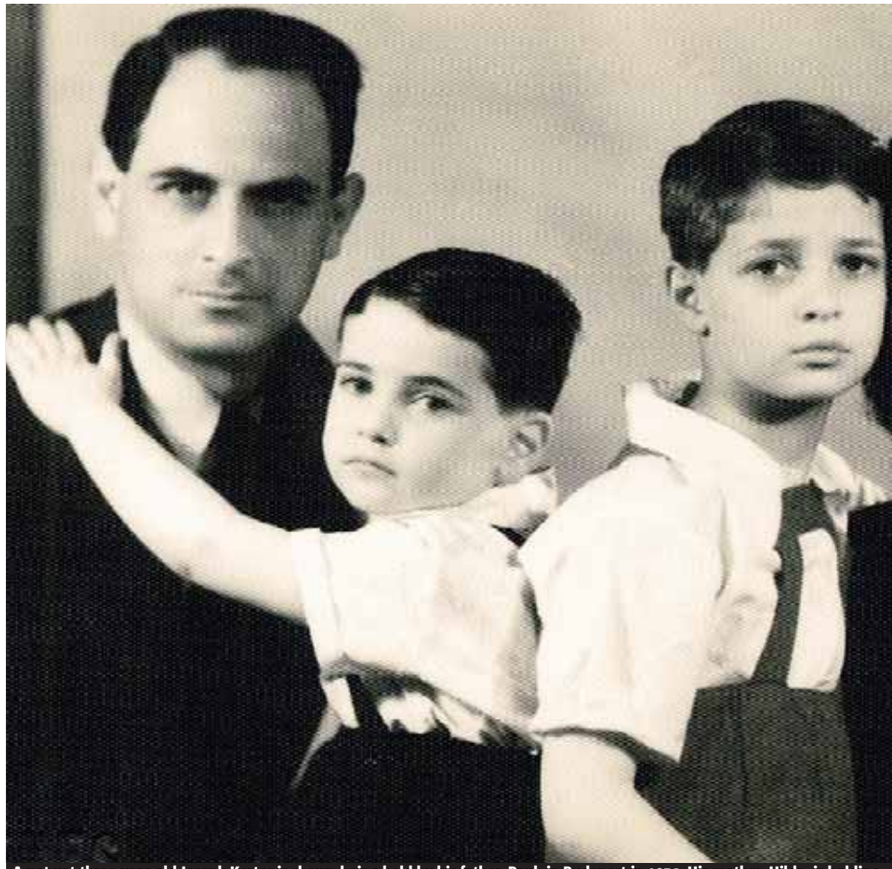
Take a big exhale and crawl yourself out into a warrior III. Bring your fingertips in front of you and lift your back leg up.



Roll up to stand and hug shin in to torso to get into dancer. Relax knee toward ground. Hold foot with hand and gently press foot into hand, extending opposite arm upward. Hang here for three long, deep breaths and go back to downward-facing dog.

As a special end-of-summer gift to our readers, Metro brings you the first chapter of The Afterlife of Stars, the newest book by award-winning author Joseph Kertes. Over the next four days, we will be introduced to the Beck brothers, two young boys grappling with the world around them as Russian tanks roll into Budapest during the final days of the Hungarian revolution. In **Part 1** of four, we meet Robert and Attila Beck and their family.

The Afterlife of Stars



A not-yet-three-year-old Joseph Kertes is shown being held by his father, Paul, in Budapest in 1954. His mother, Hilda, is holding his older brother Bill, who was called Bela at the time. CONTRIBUTED

On October 24, 1956, the day I turned 9.8, my grandmother came to take me out of school in Budapest's 6th District. We were in the middle of reviewing decimal points because of a mistake a girl in the class named Mary had made. Other parents and grandparents were arriving too with the same aim, although no one had come yet to get my friend Zoli.

My grandmother gripped my hand as we made our way down Andrassy Avenue, but a crowd had formed at the Oktogon, blocking our passage. A tank stood in the street with a bold red star shining on its flank. We saw Russian soldiers, but no one was looking at them. Everyone was gazing up instead at eight Hungarian soldiers, one hanging from each of the lampposts. My grandmother pulled hard on my arm, but not before I was able to join the lookers.

A couple of the Hungarians had stuck out their tongues as they dangled — one seemed to be smiling, four wriggled and bucked, and the one nearest us, straight above my grandmother and me, looked down at us with evergreen eyes, but there was no anger in the eyes, or even light.

Klari, my grandmother, breathed into the crown of my hair, sending hot tendrils down over me. "Come, please," she whispered. I shuddered.

The crowd was quiet. Even the few people who were sobbing were doing so silently, swallowing the sound. And then we heard from a little way down the street what I thought was an orchestra and a singer, a soprano, singing a sad song. I looked around us as my grandmother turned me toward the sound. "It's a record," she said. "From over there."

We spotted an open window above a lacy café a half block away, the white tongue of a curtain fluttering out from the window. "A record?" I asked.

"Yes, a phonograph record," Klari whispered again, steering me onward. "It's Mozart," she said, "his 'Laudate dominum,' I think. 'Praise the Lord,' it means. I wonder why they would play that now."

"Because they like it," I said.

"Yes, of course. Because they like it. Mozart wrote some moving songs."

"Did you see the man's hair?" I turned back toward the Oktogon, toward the dangling men.

"Whose?" my grandmother asked me.

"The man with the green eyes." She looked with me, but just for a second. The man's auburn hair was parted and brilliantined so that it shone even at this distance. "Do you think he combed it for someone?" I asked.

"I don't know," Klari said. "His sweetheart, I suppose." I thought my grandmother might cry, but instead she said, "Now, please keep moving, my dear. We'll have cake. Let's have cake, at Gerbeaud Café."

"Now?"

"Yes, now. Let's have a treat. You can order anything you want. I know you want poppy-seed strudel."

She took me all the way to Vorosmarty Square. The cobblestones made me think of a great house lying on its side. From the top of the building opposite, two Russian soldiers, both sturdy women, unfurled a canvas sheet so big it covered a side of Kossuth's Department Store from roof to sidewalk. It was a vast portrait.

"Look, it's Papa Stalin," I said. I knew him right away from the picture above the clock in our classroom. He had the same smile and mustache, a mustache that was three times as impressive as Hitler's, which was little more than a black checkerboard square. I found myself smiling back at the giant face, like a circus face.

"Please," my grandmother said, giving my arm another tug. "He came to liberate us, the great father," she said under her breath, "but he forgot himself. He forgot to leave. They forgot to leave. *Come*, Robert, please." She was pulling hard on my arm now.

I was as excited about poppy-seed strudel as I was about Kaiser Laszlo, Gerbeaud's monkey in a golden cage. He squealed as soon as we walked in. I think he recognized me because I'd fed him some apple cake last time. If I were the Kaiser, I'd recognize everyone who fed me cake. He was wearing a bellman's blue cap and vest. He tilted his head in an appealing way and held out his little hairy hand.

As we got comfortable, I felt warm, as if we'd come in out of a storm. The waiter placed our sweets and cocoas in front of us. Klari took out her compact and mother-of-pearl makeup case. I watched, dazzled, as my grandmother, like an artist, applied some lines and clouds, borders and dots. Once done, she fished out her monogrammed silver cigarette case, removed a cigarette from behind the little garter and tapped the end on the case before lighting it. I was just breaking off a corner of my strudel for the Kaiser when the manager walked to the middle of the busy café, clapped her hands sharply and called out to us, saying we all had to go. She was very sorry. The café was closing for the rest of the day, but we could take our cake with us. The waiters brought linen tea cloths in which to wrap up our things. For a moment I thought it might have been the cake — they'd run out of cake — but the glass cases were full of colorful sweets. I spotted a colony of marzipan goblins and other figures. Our waiter brought me one of them, a marzipan monkey with a cap like the Kaiser's.

A woman in a long mink coat brushed by us, trailing the scent of mothballs. For the longest time, I had thought that this was the scent of mink. I knew better now, but I wondered if moths went after *actual* minks or just mink coats.

The woman paused by the door to look back at us but then peered down at her own feet. She wore black patent leather shoes with very high heels and sharpened toes. They were pointing at

On the shelf

Get the book!

- Joseph Kertes' The Afterlife of Stars (Penguin Canada, $22.95) goes on sale today and is available in bookstores across Canada!
- Look for Kertes' other novels: Winter Tulips, Boardwalk and Gratitude.

Win a copy

- Are you a fan of Joseph Kertes? You could win a signed copy of The Afterlife of Stars. For full contest details and to enter visit clubmetro.com.

Joseph Kertes is the award-winning author of The Afterlife of Stars. IAN CRYSLER/FOR METRO

something. "Look," the shoes seemed to be saying, "right there on the floor. Have a look."

Then, with their fine sense of direction, the shoes turned, pointed the way out the door and took the woman out.

People were leaving quickly and abandoning their cake, most of them.

"What will happen to the Kaiser? They won't hang Laszlo, will they?"

"No, of course not. Not a thing will happen to him," my grandmother said. "He'll be here for us next time."

"When?"

"*Next* time," she said, as if she were saying never.

We hurried home to find my parents rushing around the apartment and making telephone calls. Our mother flitted from one room to the next. She smiled when she saw that I was home. "Sorry you had to leave school, my lambkin," she said, and then went about her business. My brother, Attila, was already home. He was 13.7, and he had our mother's blond hair, while I had black hair, like our father's. Attila was also a head taller than I was, everyone kept pointing out, making me want to plop an extra head on top of mine, a freaky one, possibly.

My brother was sitting on the sofa eating an apple. "We're leaving altogether, my lambkin," he said to me.

I sat down beside him. "Where are we going?"

He was chomping away but said, "West. We're going to the Wild West. You'll need your cowboy hat and spurs."

"Why?"

He was acting as if he knew but wasn't telling, so I said, "I saw the hanging men."

His face fell open. "What do you mean?"

"From the lampposts."

He turned his Arctic blue gaze on me. "Which ones?"

I crossed my arms. "On Andrassy," I said. "At the Oktogon." I pictured the man with the green eyes and nicely combed hair. As if to protect the secret of this man, I said, "Some of the men had their tongues sticking out."

Attila jumped to his feet. "That is not what happened. You did not see hanging men, and they do not stick out their tongues. I know that for a fact."

I shrugged. "Ask Mamu."

Attila ran off to get our grandmother, and I could hear him yelling out questions at her. When he came back to me, he had whitened. His blue eyes looked like marbles dropped in snow. He looked as if he wanted to strangle me. He glared, slapped at the arm of the sofa. "Are they still there?"

"What?"

"Are they still hanging there? *Shit*."

He ran out to the balcony, climbed onto the railing to peer out over the bronze head of Mor Jokai, the old Hungarian writer, whose statue sat at the top of our street, keeping watch over it. Attila turned toward me with his icy look. Then he flew back past me to our bedroom, slamming the door behind him.

That night, as we got ready for bed, my brother looked inside his pajama bottoms —he did quite a study — and then he raised his arms, flexed and turned toward the mirror, admiring the muscles and then the hairs sprouting from his armpits. "We are experiencing the balding of the world, my small brother." He tugged on a couple of the hairs. "These tufts are the last bits of hair left to us. But notice the apes are having none of it. They probably know something we don't."

"What?" I asked.

"I told you, it's something we don't know."

"How do you know it's anything, then?" I said.

Attila sighed heavily but then moved on immediately, which was his way. He peered down again into his pajama pants. "I would have made sperm a brighter color," he said, "if I had been the Lord God, Creator of the Universe."

"What color is it now?"

"You don't know?" he asked, smiling broadly. I shook my head. He said, "Do you want me to bring some forth for you to see?"

"No, I don't."

"It's a drab pearly cream color. It doesn't say how important it is, how exciting, how it makes babies, humans, soldiers, beauties, love, courage, heroism." The image of the hanging men shot through me, this time the ones with their tongues out. Attila was still talking. "The color says nothing, or it says it is nothing. Blood is red. It makes declarations. It says alarm; it says *I am the living stream*. But sperm does not. It is drab and poorly designed, or at least poorly decorated. 'Give it something more,' I would have said to the Lord. 'Color isn't everything. Give the little sperms horns, or feathers.'"

"Feathers?"

"Or full wings. Just fly through air. Right now, the slithery bastards swim upstream. Give them wings. Give them noisemakers, or little voices, so that all together they could sound like a mob storming the gates."

Attila got into bed. I was still sitting on the edge of mine, waiting for more, I guess. I was staring at him, at the back of his golden head, his slender white neck. I was sure that with a noose around his neck my brother would keep his tongue in his mouth, just to prove his point.

By the time I switched off the lights, Attila was asleep. He always fell asleep right away, even when our grandmother told us stories. Now I listened as she and our parents spoke quietly but heatedly in the living room. "We'll go to Nebraska or Utah," my father said. Now he turned on his loudspeaker voice.

"We'll become Mormons. I want to become a Mormon, try on something new." I could hear him creaking back and forth over the floor. He stopped. "We'll go to Canada. Why not Canada?"

I recognized the word *Canada* because my father's cousin Peter lived there.

"What are you talking about?" my mother asked. "And please keep your voice down."

My grandmother said we should go to Paris first to visit her sister Hermina. It would be a good place to start.

"We'll visit Paris," said my father too loudly. "We're not staying in Paris."

"Why don't we wait to see?" my mother asked.

"Because we've had enough here," he said. "Have you not had enough of Europe?" He was blasting out his thoughts now. "We've had enough of the old bitch. Europe is a failed experiment—it should be paved over and turned into a parking lot."

"Simon, please," Klari whispered. "You would not have said that if your father were still around."

"He's not around. He is resting at last."

"Do you consider that a good thing?" his mother asked.

"It works for me."

"*Simon*," my mother said. "Why do you always have to go too far?"

"Here's what I know," Klari said. I could hear her huffing. She might have gotten to her feet. "I know that nobody knows anything. And some of us know nothing with greater certainty than others."

No one answered. There was some shuffling of feet and some clinking of glasses, but they went quiet soon after.

In the darkness, I watched the bar of light at the foot of our door. It floated up like a wand into the ceiling. When the living room lights finally went out, I waded through the black milk of the night. I saw the green eyes of the hanging man up ahead in some woods, like the eyes of a woodland creature. I heard music — drumming — from the window and thought of Kaiser Laszlo, deprived all afternoon of his usual morsels. But it wasn't drumming. It was pounding. Our bedroom windows rattled in their casements and lit up as bombs fell in the distance, their sound muffled, as if I were listening to them through my pillow. I counted the seconds between the flashes and the sound, the way Attila and I did with thunder and lightning, to see how far away it was. Then the hanging man's eyes floated up again, greening over my sleep.

As Attila and I got dressed the next morning, it felt strange not to be going to school. It felt like a holiday, but not a festive one. My father's cousin Andras and his wife, Judit, were over, and the whispering continued until Attila and I joined them. They were sitting in the kitchen having tea and walnut cake. Judit was as pregnant as could be and panted as she shifted this way and that. She seemed too small and slight to have all that baby stuffed inside her. Judit had a copper glow about her in the lamplight and a constellation of copper freckles, which shifted with her big smile. She gave me a hug and kiss and smelled of the sweet powdery scent of a baby herself. She said, "I hope I have a child as beautiful and smart as you boys."

"You should be so lucky," Attila said, as he reached for a cup and panted extra hard in imitation of Judit.

Judit wanted me to sit in her lap, but I said I was too big. "You're not," she said.

"He is, my sweetie," my mother said, smiling. But Judit had already pulled me down into her lap and thrown her arms around me. Everyone was smiling then as things seemed to swirl around us.

Judit said, "I just want a good child, a kind one."

"Oh, is *that* all?" my brother said. He had poured himself some espresso and was adding ten spoons of sugar.

"Yes," was the answer. Judit had a determined look in her eyes.

"Mamu and I saw people hanging our soldiers," I told her. "Russians."

Judit loosened her grip on me. "Oh, my dear Lord," she said. "Oh, dear Lord. My poor young Robert." She held my face by the temples, looked me in the eyes. "There are good people and there are bad people, but the worst people are the ones who think they are good when they are in fact bad, evil. They would seat themselves right next to the Lord in heaven."

FROM: THE AFTERLIFE OF STARS BY JOSEPH KERTES. COPYRIGHT © JOSEPH KERTES, 2014. REPRINTED BY PERMISSION OF PENGUIN CANADA BOOKS INC.

Online only

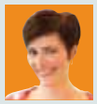
We have more on The Afterlife of Stars at metronews.ca

- **Video.** Metro columnist Richard Crouse interviews Joseph Kertes about his new book and the creative process.
- **Author talk.** Have a question for Joseph Kertes? The author will hosting a live online chat Thursday, Sept. 4 at 1 p.m. EST. You can submit questions in advance at metronews.ca.

Go green for dinner with this Easy Fresh Peas and Kale Soup

Health Solutions

Get peeling because it's totally worth the effort



NUTRI-BITES
Theresa Albert
DHN, RNCP
myfriendinfood.com

Fresh peas are a pain in the pants to peel. I totally agree, OK? But are they ever worth it!

They are almost done for the season, so now is the time to make use of them. They really do deserve at least one very good run.

(If you are really time-crunched, go right ahead and buy them shelled and packaged because frozen is just not the same and will soon be all you can get.)

Green peas are so ubiquitous that it is easy to forget they are a member of the legume family, which has been shown not only to reduce cholesterol but also to be high in antioxidants.

Vitamin K, beta carotene and a boatload of minerals come with every mouthful, but a half cup is only 60 calories.

Peas are great simply poached for two minutes and then tossed with garlic, salt and olive oil.

Anything else is just gilding the lily.

The trick is to cook them as little as possible until they turn bright green.

One minute longer and you will end up with a greyish, mushy mess that may as well have come from a can.

THERESA ALBERT IS A FOOD COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST AND PRIVATE NUTRITIONIST IN TORONTO. SHE IS @THERESAALBERT ON TWITTER AND FOUND DAILY AT MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM

Vegan. All you need to make this delicious soup is a few basic staples and about 15 minutes of your time

THERESA ALBERT
myfriendinfood.com

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

This late summer soup uses the best of the crop: fresh peas and baby kale.

It's a vegan soup that will demolish that summer indulgence feeling. It takes 10 minutes to make bowlfuls of pleasure as an entrée with pistachios and/or cheese.

Ingredients

- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 tbsp fresh chives
- 1 tbsp fresh oregano
- 1 tbsp butter or olive oil
- 1 litre vegetable broth
- 2 cups fresh peas
- 5-6 cups baby kale
- 2 cups pistachio nuts
- 1 cup grated cheese (optional)

This recipe serves four. THERESA ALBERT

1. Chop onion, chives and oregano. Melt butter in a large pot and add onion, sweat for 3 minutes over medium high heat.

2. Add broth and bring to a boil, stir in peas and simmer for 3 minutes. Stir in kale and simmer for 2 minutes, add chopped herbs.

3. Use a purée wand to blend and top with shelled pistachios and cheese, if using.

THERESA ALBERT IS A FOOD COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST AND TORONTO PERSONAL NUTRITIONIST. SHE IS @THERESAALBERT ON TWITTER AND FOUND DAILY AT MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM

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App'd to handle it

Tech. A guide to find the best apps to keep you focused and organized this year

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Attending college or university for the first time can be daunting. Fortunately, students can use their smartphones and tablets to give them an upper hand on adjusting to campus life. Here are a few great apps for new and veteran post-secondary students.

Allrecipes, free (iOS, Android and Windows)
Students shouldn't have to live off noodles and canned meat. The free multi-platform app not only gives students suggestions on what to make, it also provides video walkthroughs for many recipes. The shopping list feature lets them make a list of needed items, then cross them off at the store.

iStudiez Pro, $2.99 (iOS)
Stay organized this school year with this beautifully designed app. Help track your deadlines, plan homework and schedule an entire day from an iPhone or iPad. The built-in GPA calculator helps you monitor results, keeping you on track to ensure there are no surprises at the end of the semester.

Evernote, free (iOS and Android)
Never worry about leaving a laptop or tablet full of notes at home again. Now you can always have your notes with you with the Evernote app. Take notes with photos, graphs, audio, and video, and the app automatically stores everything in an online account, which can be accessed on most iOS and Android devices. The best part is this highly useful app is free and ideal for broke students.

SelfControl, free (Mac OS)
It's easy to get distracted by social media, email and viral video sites while working online. This ingenious Mac application blocks all those distracting websites. Create a list of websites you want to block, launch the app, and watch as it prevents you from visiting them. The websites are blocked even if you delete or restart your computer. For many, this may be the only way to ensure they get your work done with little distraction.

Circleof6, free (iOS and Android)
Safety on campus is a concern for both students and parents. This app allows you to invite six people into your circle of friends. If you are walking home alone at night or meeting someone new for the first time, you can send a customized "come and get me" message along with a map showing exactly where you are. Sending a message only takes two taps on the screen.

Dictionary.com, free (iOS and Android)
More than just a dictionary. This updated app shows words trending in your area and will help you learn the lingo of your campus, making it perfect for those studying abroad for school. As an added bonus, downloading this app gives users access to Thesaurus.com. The app also works offline.

Add Reminders to keep your projects in view and on track
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TM

* No purchase necessary. Contest ends September 30, 2014. Correct answer to skill testing question required. For full contest rules and how to enter without purchase, please visit rbc.com/rules. 1 Personal lending products are provided by Royal Bank of Canada® and subject to its standard lending criteria. Some conditions and restrictions apply. 2 Refers to the RBC Student Banking® account with no monthly fee and 25 debit transactions per month. 3 Additional *Interac* e-Transfers are $1 each. Totals are not cumulative and, if not used, cannot be carried over into the next applicable monthly cycle or calendar year. *Interac* e-Transfers to a Facebook contact currently only available for iPhone and iPad. 4 Refers to RBC Rewards® Visa‡ Gold card. Subject to credit approval. To see a list of eligible credit cards for students, please visit: rbc.com/studentcards. 5 Refers to Purchase Security and Extended Warranty Insurance. Coverage underwritten by RBC General Insurance Company in the province of Quebec and by RBC Insurance Company of Canada in the rest of Canada. All insurance is subject to limitations and exclusions. ® / ™ Trademark(s) of Royal Bank of Canada. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. ‡ All other trademarks are the property of their respective owner(s).

D is for dominant if you're the Stamps

CFL. Calgary takes sole possession of first place after keeping Edmonton's offence from scoring a TD

From left: Eskimos Aaron Grymes, Rennie Curran and Eddie Steele pursue Stampeders running back Jon Cornish at McMahon Stadium on Monday. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

One of the reasons running back Jon Cornish likes life as a Calgary Stampeder is he doesn't have to face his own defence. It's not a place where there is a lot of daylight.

For the second straight game and for a fourth game this season, Calgary didn't allow an offensive touchdown in their 28-13 win over the Edmonton Eskimos on Monday.

"People don't even know how good our defence is," Cornish said. "It really shifts momentum and it demoralizes the other team. I've said it before, I'll say it again: I do not want to play against our defence."

The hype for this year's Labour Day clash between Alberta's CFL clubs was justified as it featured two teams tied for both the league and West Division lead.

Calgary moved into sole possession of first place at 8-1 with the win, while the Eskimos dropped into a tie with the Saskatchewan Roughriders at 7-2.

The Stampeders extended their winning streak against their northern rival to 10 in a row, including three straight Labour Day games.

Calgary also bought some playoff insurance by winning the second of three meetings with Edmonton and clinching the season series.

If Calgary is tied in points with the Eskimos at season's end, the Stampeders would get the higher ranking. The Battle of Alberta continues Saturday in Edmonton in their final meeting of the regular season.

Calgary quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell improved to 11-1 in CFL starts. He threw for 252 yards, including a 27-yard touchdown throw to Anthony Parker, while Cornish ran for 163 yards and a touchdown.

Edmonton's Otha Foster recovered a blocked punt in the first quarter and ran it in to score Edmonton's lone touchdown.

"I just told the guys just now it was the most disappointing part of the year," Esks head coach Chris Jones said following the game. "We didn't have the energy that we normally have and we didn't fly around, especially defensively, like we have." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Labour Day Classic

Stampeders	Eskimos
28	13

- **In Hamilton.** The Tiger-Cats' debut at Tim Hortons Field was a victorious one as they beat the Argos 13-12.

Tennis

Bouchard out of the U.S. Open

Canada's Eugenie Bouchard is out of the U.S. Open.

The Westmount, Que., native lost her fourth-round match 7-6 (2), 6-4 to Ekaterina Makarova on a sweltering Monday afternoon after needing treatment from medical staff midway through the second set.

The 17th-seeded Makarova advanced to the quarter-finals, where she will face Victoria Azarenka, who defeated Aleksandra Krunic 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 on Monday night. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Four Phillies pitchers combine to no-hit Braves

Cole Hamels and three Philadelphia Phillies relievers combined to pitch a no-hitter Monday, beating the Atlanta Braves 7-0 and giving a last-place team a rare reason to celebrate.

Hamels (8-6) was pulled after six innings and seemed fine with the decision. He struck out seven, walked five, hit a batter and threw 108 pitches on a hot afternoon at Turner Field.

Relievers Jake Diekman, Ken Giles and closer Jonathan Papelbon each pitched a hitless inning to finish off the fourth no-hitter in the majors this season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kirk sends his regards

Chris Kirk kisses the winner's trophy after conquering the Deutsche Bank Championship — the second tournament of the FedEx Cup playoffs — on Monday at TPC Boston in Norton, Mass. Kirk closed with a 5-under-par 66 for a four-round total of 15-under 269, beating three second-place finishers by two strokes. ROSS KINNAIRD/GETTY IMAGES

Tour of Alberta adds dirt roads; mountains left out

More urban routes for spectators and "Canadian cobblestone" have been incorporated into the second Tour of Alberta cycling stage race. What's missing is a mountain stage and the defending champion.

The 2014 Tour of Alberta opens with Tuesday's prologue in Calgary. The six-day race features 120 racers from 13 countries, including 24 Canadians.

The penultimate leg near Edmonton includes sections of dirt road, which presents a very Canadian surface for Europeans accustomed to racing on cobblestones.

"We have some Canadian cobblestone," Tour of Alberta executive director Duane Vienneau says. "It's called gravel."

The field includes Dutchmen Bauke Mollema and Steven Kruijswijk, who finished 10th and 15th respectively in this year's Tour de France, as well as Tour stage winner Ramunas Navardauskas of Lithuania and Tour of Utah victor Tom Danielson of the U.S.

Edmonton's Ryan Anderson finished eighth overall and wore the Maple Leaf jersey as top Canadian in the inaugural Tour of Alberta in 2013. The 27-year-old returns to his home province with his U.S.-based Optum Pro Cycling team.

Rohan Dennis of Australia was expected to mount a defence of his Tour of Alberta title until a mid-season transfer from the Garmin-Sharp team to BMC Racing stuck a spoke in that wheel. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Taking the scenic route

734 km

After Tuesday's prologue in Calgary, the 734-kilometre route winds through Lethbridge, Innisfail, Red Deer, Wetaskiwin and Sherwood Park before concluding Sunday in Edmonton.

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
This is a great day for getting things done but be quick because the rest of the week will be taken up by relationship issues that eat into your time.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Money matters will go very well indeed today as will anything to do with your working routine. It seems that Lady Luck is very much on your side right now. Make good use of her.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Even a Gemini needs help sometimes and you will need it over the next 24 hours. With Mercury moving into the most sociable area of your chart, you'll get the help you require.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Don't be tempted to take on too much work today. If you do your standards may have to be lowered. No matter how much others offer you to do more, resist the temptation.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Start aiming higher. So many times in the past you've had chances to do something special but failed to get started. It may be now or never.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you feel the need to reorder your home life, do so. But don't go making changes that cost a lot of money. There is a lot you can do for free. Be creative.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Mercury, planet of the mind, moves into your birth sign today, so you'll know what needs to be done. It doesn't mean you have to do it instantly.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
There is a danger that in your enthusiasm to show what you can do you will take on too many tasks and spread yourself too thin. Focus on the one thing you are naturally good at today.

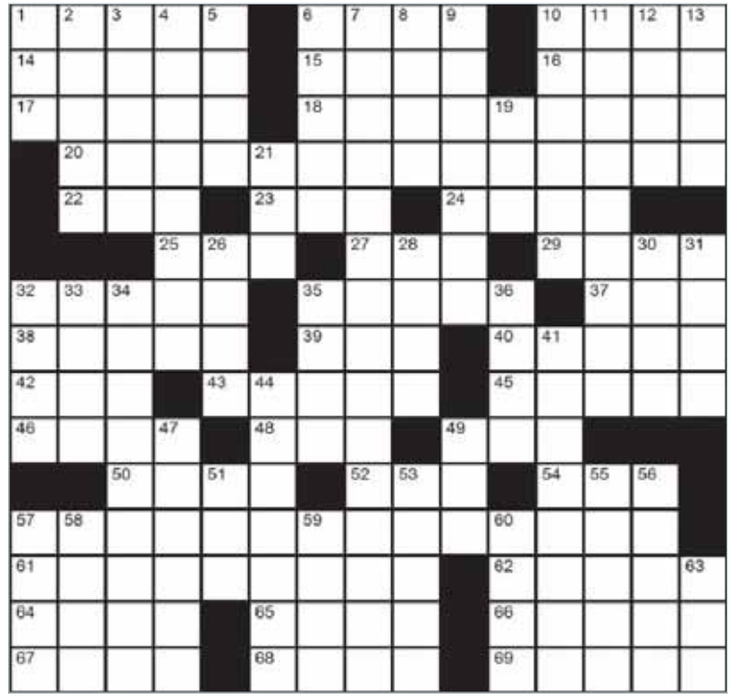
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Doors that have been closed to you in the past will open over the next few days. People who were reluctant to assist you before will now be falling over themselves to help you out.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If a loved one is in trouble today you will ride to their rescue, no questions asked. Be generous with your time and sympathy but be careful with your money.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Get out and extend your range of contacts. You may be an individualist by nature but there is only so much progress you can make on your own.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Lately you seem be missing the essential ingredient of luck that every successful person needs. Don't worry: what happens over the next few days will be very much to your benefit.

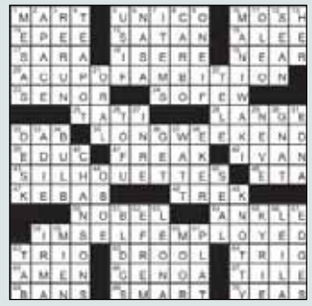
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Sorceress daughter of Helios
6. Daytime breaks
10. Dutch for 'city'
14. Stevie Wonder's "My Cherie __"
15. Butter look-alike
16. Fish type
17. Type of bean
18. Cowboy attraction in Alberta: __ _ __
National Historic Site of Canada
20. Store's stock in September: 2 wds.
22. Bawl
23. Twi'__ (Humanoid species in the 'Star Wars' universe)
24. British WWII submachine gun
25. Summer: French
27. Dye type
29. Mil. units
32. Hooded snake
35. Put __ __ to (Finish)
37. Soup sort
38. Comedian/actress Ms. Butler
39. ABC show, to fans
40. Arctic __
42. Org. on "Homeland"
43. The __ (Customer's diner request)
45. Tenet
46. Ignore
48. Canada-to-England crossing, briefly
49. Ottawa insider, briefly
50. _-__ (Cancel with a cross)
52. Dined
54. Philosopher, __-tzu
57. Pencil case items, perhaps: 2 wds.
61. Mount of Muses
62. Titles in Turkey [var. sp]
64. Mr. Johnson
65. Destiny
66. Dripping
67. Fermented soybean paste
68. River of Flanders
69. Shakira album: 'Donde __ los Ladrones?'

Down
1. Toothpaste tube's twister
2. Janet Jackson hit bit: "_ __ you much..."
3. Gadgets brand on retro TV
4. Marilla __ (Colleen Dewhurst role)
5. Slangy suffix to 'Stink'
6. Aristocratic
7. Dog atop the Yukon's coat of arms: 2 wds.
8. Brazil neighbour
9. Time to eat!: 2 wds.
10. Less freshly-baked
11. Guitar's one-of-six: 2 wds.
12. 'Perform' suffix
13. Morse Code bits
19. Acct.
21. Grand Opry link
26. Russian p.o.p. d.u.o.
28. Enthusiasm
30. Stampeders or Blue Jays
31. Mens __ in corpore sano (Healthy mind/body)
32. Belonging to a Canuck TV network
33. Wholly Part link: 2 wds.
34. Musee des __-__ de Montreal
35. Have _ __ feeling (Sense)
36. Mauritius bird, once
41. Toronto's George Brown, and others
44. Fulfill
47. Malay Archipelago island
49. Apiece
51. "Pull __ _ chair!" (Relax!)
53. Shock weapon
55. Buddhist who has attained Nirvana
56. Japan's city of canals
57. Cyber-cluttering communication
58. Mata __
59. Hockey great Mr. Tikkanen, and others
60. Baby __ (Trendy salad ingredient)
63. Equivalent word [abbr.]

Friday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	4	5					2	
7					4		5	
8			9		5	1		
	1			7		8		3
6		2		5			9	
		1	5		8			2
	3		7					9
	5					7	3	

Friday's Sudoku

1	6	4	3	8	7	5	9	2
5	7	2	1	6	9	3	4	8
9	8	3	2	5	4	6	1	7
3	5	1	8	9	6	2	7	4
2	9	7	5	4	1	8	6	3
6	4	8	7	2	3	9	5	1
7	2	6	4	3	5	1	8	9
4	3	9	6	1	8	7	2	5
8	1	5	9	7	2	4	3	6

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3012 17th Ave. SE

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Beacon Hill Shopping Centre

Market Mall

North Hill Centre

Southeast

Chinook Centre

Deerfoot Meadows

Shepard Centre

Southcentre Mall

1288 42nd Ave. SE

4410 50th Ave. SE

4825 Macleod Trail S

6039 Centre St. S

6100 Macleod Trail S

7825 Flint Rd. SE

Southwest

Bankers Hall

Bow Valley Square

The Core

Shawnessy Shopping Centre

Westbrook Mall

Westhills Town Centre

321 6th Ave. SW

2008 33rd Ave. SW

4623 Bow Trail SW

Airdrie

2145 Summerfield Blvd.

Cochrane

201 Grand Blvd. W

Okotoks

31 Southridge Dr.

118 Elizabeth St.

Rocky View County

CrossIron Mills

Strathmore

55 Wheatland Trail

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